The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL

K4GSO.us

March 2022

President's Message

Bill Gillespie, KW5BG

2022 is the club's 75th anniversary. We will be celebrating it later in the year with a Special Event station. In preparation we'd like to tap into our members' talents by having a QSL Card design contest. We see this as running from now until we vote for the winning design at the May membership meeting. So let's get those artistic and competitive juices flowing.

February's Operating Day, related to RTTY, was a success. Several folks were able to learn how to set up their rigs and operate in the North American QSO Party (NAQP) RTTY contest. Thank you very much to Andy (NA4DA), Bruce (WA4IPU), and Wayne (WA1PMA) for your time and expertise!

March's Operating Day will be Marion County Day, on Saturday, March 26. We will be setting up several operating stations to demonstrate some of the modes we use. This will be a great opportunity to show the public what we can do and how much fun we have doing it! We expect MERT, and perhaps the Hospital Group, will also be there. We can use members as operators, set up/tear down, and ambassadors to talk with visitors. We'll have more information later that includes where we will be operating.

As part of our community outreach, we are talking to the First Christian Church Boy Scout Troop about helping them get their Radio Merit Badges. Additionally, we hope to get them their Technician (General?? :-)) licenses. If they progress that far, we'd be interested in helping them get their own station established. Let us know if you'd be interested in being involved in this endeavor.

We are targeting June 4th as the date for sponsoring a tailgate at GCH. So, get those items you want to "transfer" to another ham ready.

One of our projects for GCH has been changing out the existing tower. Given the current cost ($$$$) of cement, we've decided to put that portion of the plans on hold and use the existing tower for the time being. But, our internet is installed and hopefully the ham room will be renovated soon.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 15

Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 PM Mentoring & Socializing

7:00 PM Meeting

Program: Ham Radio Deluxe
Kevin Young, KC7FPF

SSRC Board of Directors first Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Green Clover Hall

Upcoming Events

March 26— Operating Day
Marion County Day, Green Clover Hall

VE Testing — May 10, 7 PM (GCH)
SSRC Tailgate — June 4 (GCH)

Silver Springs Radio Club Net

K4GSO Repeater

Mondays at 7:30 PM

146.610, PL 123

Membership/Hamfest

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, Hamfest & Membership Chairman

MEMBERSHIP:

Last call, last call, last call to renew your membership for 2022 to avoid being transferred to the lapsed membership list. Trust me…you do no not want or need to be relegated to that list. Remember, dues were due by January 31 and we are now at about 75%. For those of you who renewed early or during January or in February – a BIG THANK YOU!

As mentioned last month, the online application has been revised and simplified. Carl, Hayden and Grey got tired of the floggings and made it really simple. There will be several things you will need to know. One (and should be anyway) is your FCC License Expiration date. Why, you ask? Because you don't want it to lapse and we can help remind you to renew it and full voting membership is only open to currently licensed amateurs. Another is when and how your dues were paid.

Here is the new renewal page found under the Membership and Information tab at: https://k4gso.us/fr2022/ Simply follow the onscreen prompts, enter your information and press the Blue Send Button

MARION COUNTY DAY 2022:

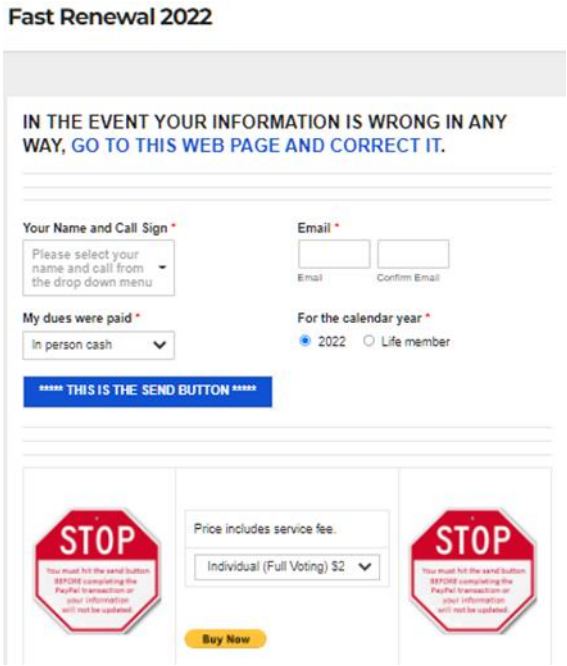
As reported in last month's Oracle and the February General Meeting, Marion County will be having a community wide celebration on Saturday, March 26 at the McPherson Governmental Complex. Due to the pandemic, last year's event was cancelled. There will be lots of vendors, displays, other participants and hopefully large crowds to enjoy an early spring day outside.

The County has not issued their final marching orders but as is typical, it will be at the last minute. Regardless, we have a plan and will need several radio operators and greeters at our booth spaces.

SSRC will setup a couple of stations to demonstrate our skills and portable emergency operations to the public. Mark your calendars to attend and participate in this club event. More details to follow at the March General Meeting and/or by direct email as the event date nears.

HAMFEST 2022:

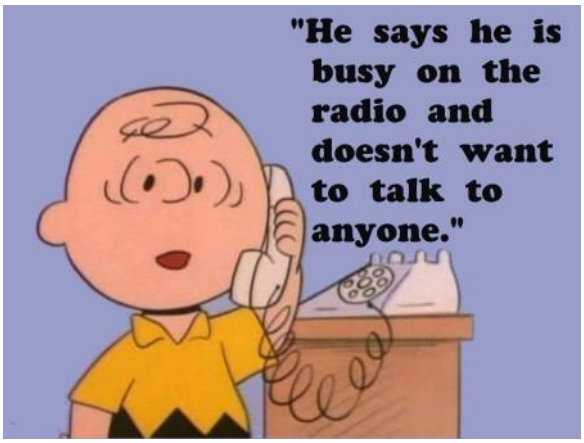
Save the date – December 2nd for setup and December 3rd for Hamfest. Location will again be at First Christian Church, Ocala. Stay tuned to *The Oracle* and club meetings for more details as we get closer to the event.



That's it. If any of your information has changed or needs to be updated, click on the

GO TO THIS WEB PAGE AND CORRECT IT.

This will take you to the Membership Application page where you will need to update your information.



Upcoming Programs

March - Kevin Young, KC7FPF, HRD

April – SETI, The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, with information on the WOW signal picked up by the Ohio State University's Big Ear Observatory in 1977. Presented electronically by Bob Dixon W8ERD.

May - Dr. Ed Fong – antennas UHF/VHF

June – Field Day & TBA

July – DX Engineering, Tim Duffy, K3LR, Grounding and Bonding

A Blast from the Past

Carl Berry, KC5CMX

Ham radio operators hold disaster exercise

By Andy Fillmore
Correspondent

The message "CQ-field day," which is ham radio code for "calling any station, requesting a response," filled the air as Silver Springs Radio Club members gathered for a 24-hour national disaster preparedness exercise hosted by the American Radio Relay League.

The event was held Saturday and Sunday at the McPherson Governmental Complex.

Amateur, or "ham," radio operators can become the only line of communication during emergencies, when other means are not operable due to damage or lack of power.

EMERGENCY on Page 5B

DOUG ENGLE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lois Baker, left, and Harold Wood, center, prepare to log a station contact to western Massachusetts as Carl Berry tries to reach the contact Saturday afternoon.

Celebrate World Amateur Radio Day

Sunday, April 18, is World Amateur Radio Day (**WARD**). This year marks the 96th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union (**IARU**), founded at the 1925 International Radiotelegraph Conference in Paris. ARRL cofounder and first president, Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW, was there, and today, ARRL is the International Secretariat of the IARU. … from www.arrl.org/.

Review of the Xeigu VG4 Vertical Antenna

Roger Ackley, WA2CZR

I just purchased the Xeigu VG4 vertical antenna, it covers 40, 20, 15, 10 meters. The price was very low at $299.00.

This is a end loaded vertical using capacitive hats(per Xeigu). It arrived within a week of ordering in about a 5" square box about 4' long. Assembly instructions were not the best, but the photos on line helped to supplement the instructions. Assembly time less than or around 1.5 hours. I should also comment that Xeigu included the Allen wrench and 2 open/box wrenches needed for assembly. Very thoughtful.

The antenna is designed to be mounted no less than 10' above the ground, and uses no ground radials. The lack of having ground radials was a factor for the purchase. Fully assembled the antenna is 26'.

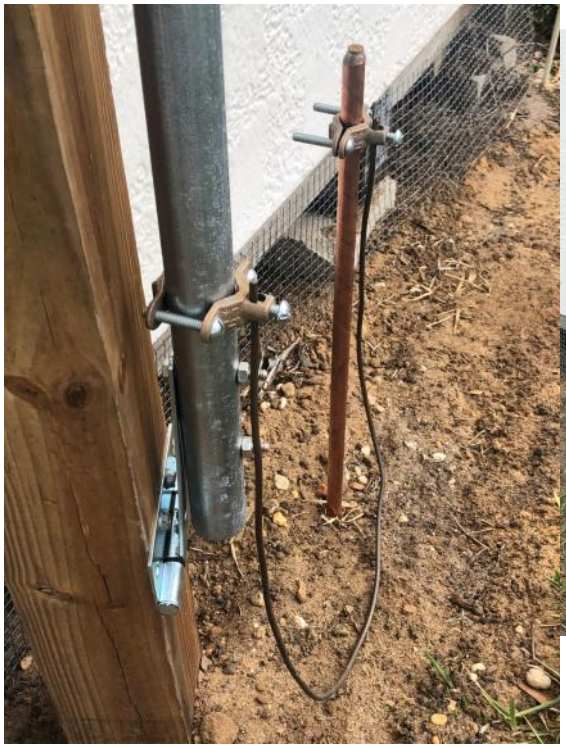
I mounted it on a mast on one of my out buildings. So overall the top of the antenna is 36' above ground. I set a 4X4 into the ground leaving about 3' exposed. Mounted the steel mast to a large hinge and then mounted the hinge to the 4X4. This allows me to lower the antenna in case of high winds or to make adjustments. The antenna is rated for wind speed of 35 m/s or 79.2 MPH.

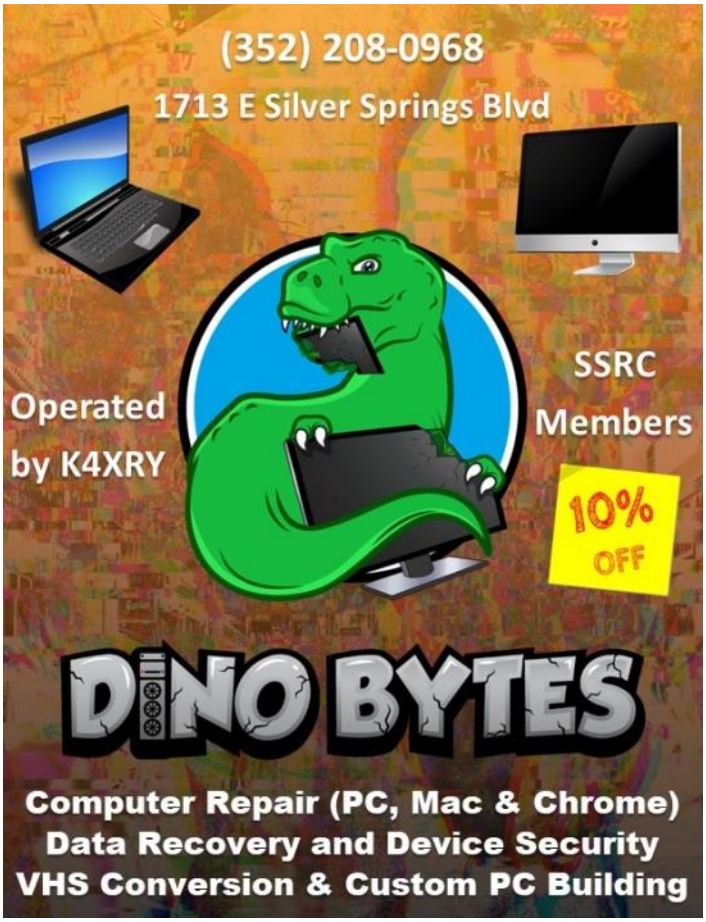
The polyphaser is mounted to the mast and then the mast is connected to an 8' ground rod at the base.

The SWR was adjusted before mounting and was good on all bands however the bandwidth on 40 was pretty narrow. Once in service, using my LDG Z-100A tuner, I was able to tune the antenna across the band with no problem.

The first contact around 10 AM was Curacao 5-9, then Italy 5-9+, Serbia 5-8/9, then Finland 5-9 all on 15 meters. When I compared the receive signal to my EFLW which I have used for 2 years the signal on the Vertical was about 2-4 S units higher and in most cases the ambient noise level was quieter on the vertical compared to the EFLW.

All in all for $299 and no ground radials, I am pleased with the performance.





SSRC Classified Ads

If you have a business service and want to place an ad in this section, contact Marty Brown, n4gl.marty@gmail.com.

At this time we are not charging for advertising space, however the board may approve fees in the future.

Submitted by Andy, NA4DA

2022 SSRC Officers

President - Bill Gillespie, KW5BG
Vice President - Jim Burgess, KN4MIV
Secretary - Gray Moffett, KC3DWY
Treasurer -Tim Trombley, K8TAT
Past President - Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K

Directors:
Mike Condon - W9MNC
Wayne Brown - N4FP
Hayden Kaufman - N2HAY

Club Minutes and Financial Reports

SSRC Information

SSRC Logo
Shirts & Caps
Green Clover Key Card
Perry Field Access
Membership Application
Buy/Sell/Trade
QST NFL – NFL Section Newsletter
Silver Springs Radio Club Website
NFL Section Website
WA7BNM Contest Calendar
NG3K DX

Committee Chairs

Membership – Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K
Trustee K4GSO – Wayne Brown, N4FP
Newsletter – Marty Brown, N4GL